

"HOME OF THE WARRIORS" — DEPT. OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS
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HARVARD STRONG CONTENDER FOR TOURNAMENT HONORS

The American teams entered in Loyola's annual Centennial hockey Tournament have been getting progressively stronger since the tourney was instigated four years ago.

And this year, Harvard, is the strongest entry ever. Harvard's Crimson take to the ice to open this edition of the run for the Centennial Cup Friday at 7 p.m. at Pointe Claire Arena when they take on the McGill Redmen. In the other opening round game Loyola Warriors and Sir George Williams Georgians tangle at 9:30 p.m. The three-time champions, University of Toronto Blues get the first round bye in the five team competition.

Last year under former Boston Bruin coach Cooney Wieland, the Crimson rolled to a 19-8-1 record overall. They finished second in the Ivy League, took second place in the ECAC sectional playdowns behind Cornell and wound up third in the NCAA national championships. To gain third place they tripped Michigan Tech Huskies, a team that made it to the Centennial tourney semi-finals last year, 6-5.

This year with a host of veteran back, Harvard has posted a 3-2 record. Last weekend the Crimson were sturned 5-4 by Boston College Eagles, another former Centennial team.

Wieland has two lines back intact, his goalie has returned and his

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top-line defensive duo is back. Topping the list of returning lettermen and continually bringing smiles to his coach's face is Joe Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh, a senior scored 24 goals last year and assisted on another 38 in pacing Harvard. This year in four games the flying centraman has accounted for three goals and nine assists.

Cavanaugh, who earned All-America honors in 1968-69, seems headed to another season as the finest American-born college hockey player in the U.S. college playing ranks. He is centering a line that accounted for 67 goals as a unit last year. Flanking the Rhode Island senior are Dan DeMichele another resident of Rhode Island and Steve Owen, a Massachusetts resident.

"This line played superbly," burred Harvard officials, "and they're going great right now. They're the key to the hockey club."

The other line returning intact that Weiland is counting heavily on is centred by George McManama. He is flanked by a Kitchener, Ontario product, Ron Mark, and Tom Paul.

Back between the pipes is Harvard's Canadian goalie, Bruce Durno. Durno, who hails from Niagara Falls, Ontario is being touted as another Ken Dryden, the Cornell goalie who earned All-America honors last year and is now tending goal for Canada's National team. Giving Durno lots of help out front are a pair of returning rearguards. Captain Chris Gurry and Terry Flaman give opposing forwards a lot to worry about as they cross the Crimson's blue line.

While Harvard is hale and hearty, the defending champions from Toronto have had more than their share of injuries. The Blues jumped off to three consecutive wins in the western division of the Ontario-Quebec league before the injury bug hit. They were stunned 3-2 by Guelph and then were held to a 3-3 tie by Waterloo.

Coach Tom Watt is hoping anyone of the injured can get back into the line-up prior to the Blues first game in the Centennial go-round. Not enjoying their enforced rest on the sidelines at the moment are defenseman Bill L'Heureux with a broken bone in his left hand, blueline Brent Swanick, captain and centre Brian St. John, knee problems and wingers Nick Holmes and Len Burman.

The picture has been getting brighter for the Sir George pucksters over the holidays. Key defenseman Mike McNamara will suit up with the Georgians despite a broken thumb. He'll be fitted with a cast for the game. Paul Arsenault, the Georgians pilot, has been taking a look at a host of new bodies over the holidays and he may dress some new faces for the tournament game with Loyola. Last year the Georgians forced their encounter with Loyola in double overtime before bowing 4-3.

McGill is healthy, but they're having some different problems. Coach Brian Gilmore certainly has the talent, but no one has started to consistently play the hockey they're capable of. McGill has just returned from playing in the Cleveland Cup when they nailed down fifth place in the six team college hockey competition.

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If the Warriors can overcome the pesky, tenacious Georgians, this could be the year when the trophy finally comes home to rest. The winner of the Loyola-Sir George game gets the second round bye and goes straight into the final. Dave Draper's Warriors are healthy and finally starting to play like a team. Recently they dumped Sir George 4-2 and are looking forward to continuing their unbeaten string of 14 games.